

do in a plantation of large sized trees would be very great. Fortunately it is easily caught and very conspicuous, and by abolishing all unnecessary fig trees from the neighbourhood of a plantation and carefully attending to the young plants, the pest out to be easily kept in check.

H. N. R.

In Memoriam

ALLAN MACLEAN SKINNER, C. M. G.

The death of Mr. Skinner will be deeply regretted by all who knew him, and as one of the original members of the Society it is fitting that some special notice of the loss the Society has sustained by his death should appear in the Journal. At the preliminary meeting held on 4th November 1877, it was Mr. Skinner who proposed that the gentlemen present should form themselves into a Society to promote the collection and record of information relating to the Straits Settlements and neighbouring countries. Of those present at the first meeting the majority have died and the Bishop of Singapore and Sarawak, the first President, is the only one still resident in the East.

At a meeting held in February 1878, was exhibited a skeleton map of the Malay Peninsula showing how little was then known of the Native States. Under the personal direction of Mr. Skinner the blank spaces were partially filled in and the first map of the Peninsula was published by the Society.

In the first number of the Journal is a valuable paper by Mr. Skinner on the Geography of the Peninsula, with maps.

In 1883 Mr. Skinner was Vice President and in the Journal published in December 1882, appeared his 'Outline History of the British Connection with Malaya,' a most useful compilation which is reproduced in the Singapore and Straits Directory.

Among his other contributions may be mentioned papers on 'The Java System' and 'Straits Meteorology'. In 1885 Mr. Skinner was elected President. He received the cordial thanks

of the Government for the valuable results of the action of the Society with regard to the publication of 'Eastern Geography,' which he edited.

In 1888 he was again elected President, but from the time of his transfer to Penang in the following year as Resident Councillor, he ceased to take an active part in the work of the Society. Since his retirement in 1897 Mr. Skinner was engaged in writing a History of the Straits Settlements.

C. W. S. K.

Singapore, 17th August, 1901.